

# Break Big Biomass: A National Call to Action Action Packet



## Table of Contents

<a href="#"><u>Issue Overview.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Biomass by the Numbers:.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Take Action.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>National Opportunities.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Local Opportunities.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Follow these Organizations to stay up-to-date:.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>5</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sample Social Media Posts.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Facebook Posts.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Instagram Posts.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>LinkedIn Posts.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Image Options:.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>7</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>How to Write a Letter to the Editor (LTE).....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>7</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Alabama.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>7</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Louisiana.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mississippi.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>California.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>North Carolina.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Georgia.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Where else are wood pellets being produced?.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>11</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Additional Resources:.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>

## Issue Overview

Biomass is derived from living materials (eg: plants, trees). Biomass is burned as fuel to produce energy on an industrial scale. One of the most common types of biomass are wood pellets. To create biomass, forests are cut down and pelletized. Then the wood pellets are shipped across the world to burn and create electricity. Wood pellet plants and other biomass plants are extremely dirty forms of energy. Biomass emits more carbon than coal. Producing wood pellets emits constant air and noise pollution.

Wood pellet producers often operate in marginalized communities. Rural, Black and Indigenous communities suffer the worst impacts. Biomass pollution has been linked to health issues like lung and heart disease. It can also cause some types of cancer. Not only is human health impacted, it is also bad for the climate. Cutting forests makes communities more vulnerable to natural disasters.

This is not the direction that the United States or the world should be moving. This industry is a climate catastrophe. It's also on the brink of collapse without government subsidies. We need to move beyond biomass. We must support truly renewable industries that have shown more promise and more hope for a sustainable future.

### ***Biomass by the Numbers:***

- Percent of the European Union's "renewable energy" mix (wind, solar, biomass, geothermal) that comes from biomass: **60%**
- Factor by which per-energy-unit pollution from US biomass consumption exceeds that of pollution from coal or oil: **2.8**
- Subsidies received by Enviva and its various subsidiaries, 2012-2016, for building facilities in North Carolina: **\$7.6 million**
- Year Enviva declared bankruptcy: **2024**
- Amount owed by Enviva in bonds from local development authorities in Mississippi and Alabama at the time of bankruptcy: **\$353 million**
- Subsidies received by Drax from the UK government for 'renewable' power generation, annually: **\$750 million**
- Estimated subsidies from US federal, state, and local taxing district governments received by Drax corporation in 2019: **\$965 million**
- Fines paid by Drax in the US since then for air pollution, labor, illegal construction, and other facility violations: **\$6,100,000**

- Size of fine for Drax' air quality violations in Mississippi: **\$2,500,000**
- Rank, size of fine for air pollution violations by Drax, in Mississippi state history: **1<sup>st</sup>**
- Greater likelihood that biomass (pellet production) facilities will be located in communities already facing serious environmental health burdens: **2x**
- Subsidies received by PNWRE in Washington State from federal and state subsidies, for development of an plant for exporting wood pellets to East Asia: **\$500,000**
- Number of PNWRE representatives attending the WA public hearing at which its air quality permit was discussed: **0**
- US forest loss attribute to biomass demand, in acres: **1 million**
- Carbon 'payback' period / carbon debt length, for different species/sites, after forest cutting for biomass use: **40-400 years**
- Time in which the atmosphere 'sees' the increase in carbon from pellet burning: **immediately**
- Period in which 'additionality' of carbon storage is achieved following biomass harvest: **never**

## Take Action

We encourage everyone to take part in action in your state and local community. Federal legislation alone won't stop Big Biomass. To stop companies like Drax, we must support the efforts of local organizations. They are helping to advocate against repeated violations, occupational hazards, and pollution.

### *National Opportunities*

- [Stop the Trump Admin Logging and Bioenergy Orders](#) - Keep our forests standing.
- [Make Drax Clean Up Their Act](#) - Ask Drax to stop polluting and protect public health.
- [Hold Enviva Accountable](#) - Tell Enviva to stop polluting and protect public health.
- [Demand that Congress Protect Forests](#) - For the future of our health and climate.

### *Local Opportunities*

- **Alabama:**
  - Enviva is opening a \$375 million wood pellet plant in Epes, Alabama. This is despite filing for bankruptcy. [BlackBelt Women Rising](#) is fighting against it. (Contact: [info@blackbeltwomenrising.org](mailto:info@blackbeltwomenrising.org))
  - Drax is operating two plants in Alabama. One is a \$100 million mill in Demopolis, Alabama, an environmental justice community. This includes a mill in Aliceville, Alabama.
- **British Columbia:**
  - Researchers have found that Drax sources from primary forests in British Columbia. Drax has violated environmental law 189 [times](#) in Canada. Join [Stand.Earth](#) in their advocacy work. We can tell the Canadian government to [stop subsidies for the biomass industry](#).
- **California:**
  - UK-based company Drax is one of the world's largest bioenergy producers. They have joined forces with a government-linked nonprofit Golden State Natural Resources. Their aim is to expand industrial wood pellet production into California. This would have direct effects on communities in Lassen and Tuolumne counties, CA.
  - Tell Yana Garcia, a key member of the California EPA, to [stop the expansion of Drax](#). We can protect forests and communities of Lassen and Tuolumne counties together.
- **Georgia:**
  - Adel, Georgia: join the [Concerned Citizens of Cook County](#) and Dogwood Alliance! We are working to tell Georgia's state-level legislators to [stop the wood pellet industry](#).
  - Download and share this [Georgia Fact Sheet](#). Share it with your networks. Use it as a reference when contacting elected officials.
- **Mississippi:**
  - The [Greater Greener Gloster](#) Project is working to Hold Drax Accountable. Regulators have fined Drax over serious air quality breaches at its Gloster mill. In Louisiana, pollution violations have already cost Two Drax mills millions. (Watch the Mississippi Day of Action info video [here](#).)
- **North Carolina:**
  - [Dogwood Alliance](#) is a leading advocacy force against wood pellets in North Carolina. Explore community efforts in [Richmond County](#), [Sampson County](#), and [Northampton](#).
  - Download and share this [North Carolina Fact Sheet](#). Share it with your networks. Use it as a reference when contacting elected officials.
- **South Carolina**
  - Download and share this [South Carolina Fact Sheet](#). Share it with your networks. Use it as a reference when contacting elected officials.
- **Washington/Oregon:**
  - In Hoquiam, Washington, environmental groups are challenging an air quality permit. This would be for a proposed wood pellet [facility in the area](#). The project

- proponent, PNWRE, received half a million dollars in state and federal subsidies. They received these funds before even getting to the permit stage.
- In Longview, Washington, Drax is eager to build a new pellet export facility on the Columbia River. They are already receiving fines for starting construction before receiving proper permits. Read more and take action through [350PDX's "Ax Drax" campaign](#).

***Follow these Organizations to stay up-to-date:***

Name	Contact Information
<a href="#">350PDX</a>	info@350pdx.org
<a href="#">BioFuelWatch</a>	biofuelwatch@gmail.com
<a href="#">Black Belt Women Rising</a>	info@blackbeltwomenrising.org
<a href="#">Center for Biological Diversity</a>	center@biologicaldiversity.org
<b>Climate Communications Coalition</b>	sonia@demirayink.com
<a href="#">Dogwood Alliance</a>	info@dogwoodalliance.org
<a href="#">EarthJustice</a>	info@earthjustice.org
<a href="#">Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate &amp; Health Organization (EEECHO)</a>	www.eeecho.org/contact
<a href="#">Environmental Paper Network</a>	info@environmentalpaper.org
<a href="#">Greater Greener Gloster</a>	info@greenergreengloster.com
<a href="#">Green America</a>	www.greenamerica.org/webform/general-contact-form
<a href="#">John Muir Project</a>	info@johnmuirproject.org
<a href="#">Julian Freedom</a>	info@julianfreedom.org
<a href="#">Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC)</a>	nrdcinfo@nrdc.org
<a href="#">Pivot Point</a>	Info@pivot-point.com
<a href="#">Rachel Carson Council</a>	claudia@rachelcarsoncouncil.org
<a href="#">Southern Environmental Law Center</a>	www.selc.org/about-us/contact-us/

<a href="#">(SELC)</a>	
<a href="#">Stand.Earth</a>	stand.earth/about/contact/
<a href="#">Story and Reach</a>	carina@storyandreach.com

## Sample Social Media Posts

### Facebook Posts

- Post 1:**  
Biomass hurts our trees, air, and us. Learn more by watching this video:  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1307401813920244> #BreakBigBiomass
- Post 2:**  
Biomass hurts our trees, air, and us. Learn more by watching this video:  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1307401813920244> #BreakBigBiomass
- Post 3:**  
I just learned how biomass hurts our natural forests and affects the health of people living nearby. Watch this video to learn more:  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1307401813920244> #BreakBigBiomass

### Instagram Posts

- Post 1:**  
I just found out that biomass is really hurting our forests and air. Watch this video to see why. #BreakBigBiomass [Download video here](#)
- Post 2:**  
Biomass forest burning is damaging our climate and communities. Let's #BreakBigBiomass!  
Check out this video. [Download video here](#)
- Post 3:**  
Biomass damages our natural forests and the health of our communities. See why in this video. [Download video here](#) #BreakBigBiomass

### LinkedIn Posts

- Post 1:**  
Our natural forests and communities are suffering from biomass. It's goes beyond saving

trees—it's about keeping our air and health safe. See why:  
<https://youtube.com/shorts/xhzLqIpOs3w> #BreakBigBiomass

2. **Post 2:**

Research shows that biomass forest burning is a serious threat to our environment and communities. Check out this video! #BreakBigBiomass

<https://youtube.com/shorts/xhzLqIpOs3w>

3. **Post 3:**

Biomass is damaging our forests and communities. It's important we understand its impact. Learn more by watching this video: <https://youtube.com/shorts/xhzLqIpOs3w>  
#BreakBigBiomass

### Image Options:

- [Image 1](#), [Image 2](#), [Image 3](#) & [Image 4](#)

## How to Write a Letter to the Editor (LTE)

Letter Writing Guide: *For writing letters-to-the-editor to your community's news outlets:*

1. **Keep it Short & Focused** – Most newspapers have a word limit (usually 150-250 words), so get to the point quickly.
2. **Start with a Strong Opening** – Mention why you're writing and connect it to a recent news story, event, or community issue.
3. **Make Your Key Point Clear** – Focus on one main issue and why it matters. Use a personal story, fact, or statistic to support your argument.
4. **Call to Action** – End with a strong statement on what needs to happen next, whether it's holding a company accountable, urging policy change, or encouraging community involvement.
5. **Include Your Info** – Newspapers usually require your name, city, and sometimes a phone number for verification (they won't publish your contact info).

### Alabama

To the Editor,

Alabama's forests and communities are paying the price for the false promises of the biomass industry. Companies like Enviva and Drax claim to bring economic growth, but Enviva's recent bankruptcy proves otherwise—leaving behind environmental destruction and broken promises. Meanwhile, Drax continues expanding, funneling profits to investors while pollution and deforestation burden local communities.

Biomass isn't clean, sustainable, or financially sound. Alabama leaders must stop propping up this failing industry and instead invest in truly renewable energy solutions that protect our forests, air, and economy. The state should prioritize environmental protections and ensure that corporate failures like Enviva don't leave Alabama communities to deal with the consequences.

Sincerely,

---

## **Louisiana**

To the Editor,

Drax, a biomass giant that has two Louisiana facilities has violated the law over 11,000 times, yet they continue to operate and expand in the Gulf South with little consequence. Instead of holding this foreign-owned company accountable, our state allows it to pollute our air, destroy our forests, and put public health at risk—all while receiving taxpayer-funded subsidies.

Louisiana cannot afford to let corporations like Drax profit at the expense of our communities. State leaders must enforce stricter regulations, deny further expansions, and prioritize the well-being of residents over corporate interests. We deserve clean air, healthy forests, and an economy that works for people, not polluters.

Sincerely,

---

## **Mississippi**

To the Editor,

Mississippi's forests and communities are bearing the burden of the biomass industry's false promises. Companies like Drax claim to support economic growth, but in reality, they bring pollution, health risks, and environmental harm to rural communities. As Drax pushes Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) as a so-called climate solution, the truth is that biomass energy worsens air quality and endangers public health.

Mississippi is a major timber state, but that shouldn't mean sacrificing the well-being of our people for corporate profits. Biomass is neither clean nor sustainable, and BECCS is nothing more than a distraction from real climate solutions. Our state must prioritize community health, hold polluters accountable, and invest in truly renewable energy that protects both our forests and our future.

Sincerely,

---



## California

To the Editor,

The industrial-scale wood pellet proposal brought by Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR), in coordination with forest-destroyer Drax, is dressing itself up as wildfire mitigation but is really just a profit-driven scheme that will fail to increase public safety.

Rather than focusing on overstocked forests, nearly 90% of forests GSNR proposes thinning fall outside high-density areas. GSNR themselves admit that any associated wildfire mitigation benefits would be, therefore, diminished. GSNR has spent over \$12,000,000 public dollars already; this boondoggle must be stopped before they waste one more penny.

GSNR's project is just another biomass boom and bust for overseas markets – the last thing our community needs. Instead, our communities need Firewise programs like defensible space, smoke centers, improved evacuation routes, and buried utilities. Experts, scientists, and the Forest Service agree that these are the best ways to protect us during extreme fire events.

Sincerely,

-----

## North Carolina

To the Editor,

North Carolina's forests and communities are suffering at the hands of Enviva's destruction. Wood pellet production is a greenwashed energy project. It destroys forests and spews disease-causing pollution and insufferable dust & noise. Enviva built these facilities promising economic empowerment. Then, Enviva filed for bankruptcy in 2024.

Despite economic and environmental impacts, Enviva wants to expand its Northampton County facility.

The wood pellet industry extracts from and pollutes communities to pay shareholders. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, North Carolina must prioritize forest protection and resiliency. State leaders must protect North Carolina. Please deny Enviva's Northampton facility expansion. Expand dust controls. Invest in our shared future through truly renewable energy.

Sincerely,

-----

## Georgia

To the Editor,

Georgia's forests and communities are paying the price for the false promises of the biomass industry. These companies claim to bring economic growth, but they rather leave behind environmental destruction and broken promises. We're worried about news that biomass companies like Fram and Enviva continue plans to expand and funnel profits to investors while pollution and deforestation burden local communities.

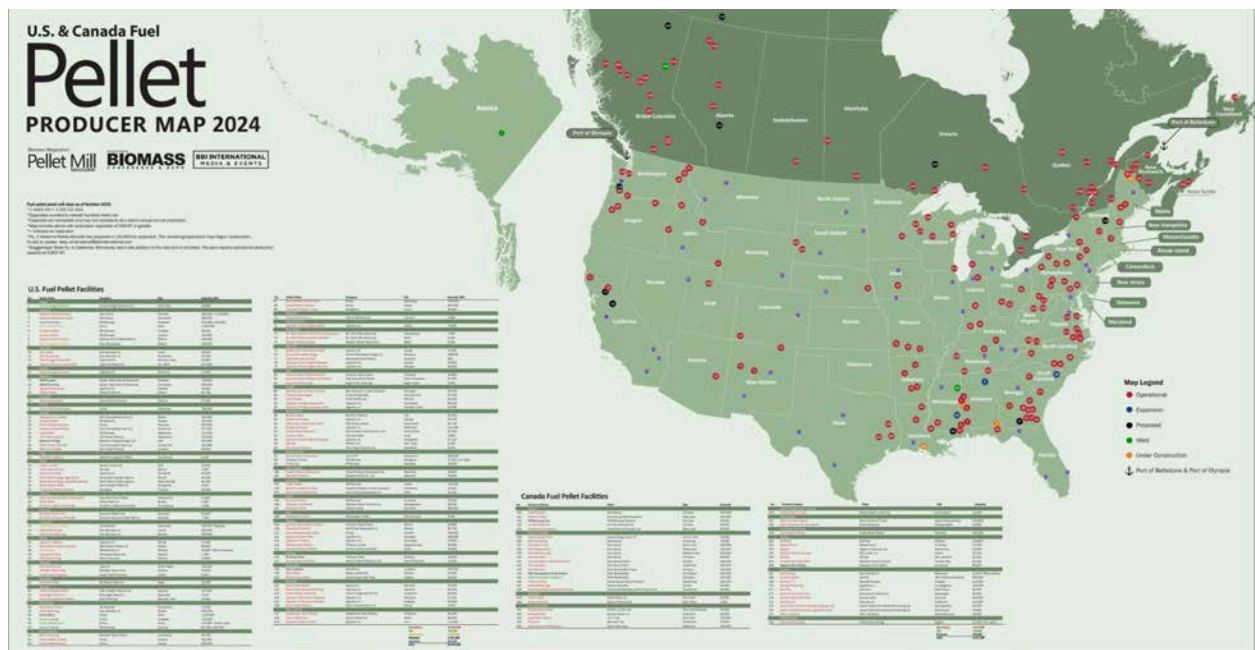
Biomass isn't clean, sustainable, or financially sound. Georgia leaders must stop propping up this failing industry and instead invest in truly renewable energy solutions that protect our forests, air, and economy. The state should prioritize environmental protections and ensure that corporations don't leave communities to deal with the consequences.

Sincerely,

---

# Where else are wood pellets being produced?

This industry map illustrates the location of fuel pellet production plants. In the United States, it also shows 9+ proposed plants and 3+ expansions. Please note that the capacity between each plant can be very different. You can find most of the high-capacity plants in the southeast and northwest US.



[\(U.S. and Canada Fuel Pellet Producer Map 2024\)](#)

